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entering said security path is authorized to remove said object.

A2
5. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said gate is for interrogating said EAS device, said gate including said reader one of built integrally thereto and in a proximity thereof.

6. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said computer contains a database including information regarding said authorized user of said object.

A3
9. (Amended) The system according to claim 7, wherein either said alarm is turned off [and] or an authorized user is allowed free passage through said path, when said authorized person exhibits said smart card to said reader.

A4
15. (Amended) A method for preventing theft of an object, comprising:
operatively attaching an electronic article surveillance (EAS) device to an object;
detecting said EAS device as said object traverses a security path;
operatively coupling a reader to said security path;
reading, by said reader, a smart card being presented to said reader as said object traverses said security path, said smart card containing an identification profile of an authorized user of said object; and
attaching a computer to said reader, said computer disabling a security gate if a person entering said security path is authorized to remove said object.

A5
19. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein said security gate is for interrogating